

PREFACE

The present work entitled 'Role of Rural Periodic Market Centres in Regional Economic Development-A Case Study of Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal', is a unique idea, which is very much effective to find the major findings of different aspects of periodic markets and its role in rural development. It is very much needed to give insight upon these periodic market centres for their further development. The district of Uttar Dinajpur is agrarian in nature. Industrial set up in the district is not remarkably developed. The mainstays of economy of people in rural area are largely dependent on the agricultural and fishing activities. The periodic market is catering the needs of producers, traders as well as consumers in rural area of the district. There is an imperative need to give a special insight to such areas. Any such work would bring to light the broad spectrum of organization and role of periodic markets in bringing regional economic development. The results of such work could be applied as guidelines to other similar area of in depth studies. People of Uttar Dinajpur District are very much dependent on their nearest periodic market centre because they wish to dispose their agricultural produce or purchase the daily required items. These market centres have their own identity in respect of weekly, biweekly or tri-weekly sit in the arrangement. So, the entire rural population is more dependent on these market centres rather permanent market centres.

Despite the development of permanent markets in the district, periodic markets play an important role as traditional exchange systems serving the bulk of the rural population in Uttar Dinajpur District. Since these markets serve population and area larger than their own, the marketing geographer considers them as part of a central place system. The work has tried to highlight the fact that these market centres primarily transact on the local agricultural produce, they exercise tremendous influence over its surrounding area.

Since antiquity, people of rural area were not so much familiar with their outside world. But it is the periodic market centres which have brought the changes in the behaviour of rural people. The mobility of rural people in different periodic market centres has made feasible to procure the various types of up-to-date information related to economy, agriculture, administrative, cultural, etc.

The study has concentrated on the origin, distribution, marketing pattern, periodicity, spatio-temporal aspects and market cycles on periodic market centres in

relation to regional economic development. Beside these aspects, it is very much necessary to concentrate on participant's behaviour.

The present study is divided into ten chapters. The first chapter uses to account the introductory part of the research. Chapter 2 briefly traces the historical and geographical background about the study area. Chapter 3 is concerned with the origin and development of periodic markets in the study area because it is very much needed to look into the fact that what probable factors has instigated in origin and development of periodic market centres in Uttar Dinajpur District. There is a combined effect of internal and external factors on few periodic markets in bringing development prospect of rural periodic market centres. Chapter 4 deals with the spatio-temporal aspects of periodic markets of the region where it tries to highlight the organization of periodic markets. Chapter 5 examines the behavioural aspects of participants participating in marketing transaction. Chapter 6 presents an outlook of the connectivity and accessibility of periodic markets in the study area. Better connectivity makes possible better accessibility to market centres. Chapter 7 highlights on the study of implication of rural periodic markets in regional economic development. Chapter 8 give a brief description about the problems encountered by traders and consumers during visit of periodic market centres. Chapter 9 suggests some relavant strategies necessary to develop the periodic market centres in Uttar Dinajpur District. At last, the chapter tenth deals with summary and conclusion of entire research.

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